GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:391
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
WELFARE FUND/ SCHEME FOR WORKERS
Jogi Shri Ajit

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of men and women workers and labourers of urban and rural areas at present engaged in the unorganised sector, separately, State-wise;

(b) whether most of the workers in the unorganised sector are not covered under any welfare fund/scheme;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to initiate any welfare fund/scheme for such workers including Beedi Workers in the unorganised sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is regular demand for creation of welfare fund for the workers in the Agriculture Sector, Beedi Industry, Salt Industry, Fish Processing Industry and Fishery Farms; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a): According to the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 2004-05, the total number of workers in both the urban and rural areas in the country was 45.9 crore. Out of these, 43.3 crore (94%) were in the unorganized sector and remaining 2.6 crore (6%) were in the organized sector. The break up of number of men and women in Unorganised Sector is not available.

(b) to (f): The Government has constituted Welfare Funds for certain occupations in the unorganized sector, like Beedi, Cine and certain Non-Coal Mine workers. Under these Welfare Funds, welfare schemes, providing for health care, housing, and education to the children etc. have been formulated. However, it is true that most of the workers in the unorganized sector are not provided social security. Recognising the need for such social security, the Government has introduced the Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Bill, 2007 in Rajya Sabha on 10.09.2007. The Bill, inter alia, provides for formulation of welfare scheme for unorganized sector workers. Funds will be allocated on formulation of such schemes but creation of a separate fund was not felt necessary.